

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

Monday 22 October 2012

MMU

In attendance: Phil Powrie, Brian Winston (Chair), Andrew Moor, Stefano Baschiera, Alex Marlow-Mann, Beth Johnson, Rajinder Dudrah, Lucia Nagib (delayed), Rachel Keene, Jeremy Points (WJEC ALevels Exam Board), Patrick Phillips (via skype).

Apologies: Paul McDonald, Lucy Mazdon.

After brief introductions and due to time difference in Vancouver where Pat Phillips was located we moved the agenda item to deal with the Alevels issue:

3F. SKYPE CALL WITH PAT PHILLIPS AND JEREMY POINTS IN ATTENDANCE RE A-LEVEL FILM STUDIES

- Pat: 1. Fast change of Alevels landscape: successful over the last 10-12 years, but marginalised in terms of student numbers, loss of existence even in some cases. Alevels reform on the FE agenda; new Alevels film specification to be devised and the awarding bodies are to approach University Depts to endorse and invite active participation in the new curriculum agenda; Can BAFTSS extend its membership to Alevels lecturers and teachers in school and colleges?
- Areas to consider: The Russell Group Universities identifying Alevel Film Studies as not a serious subject; film and media studies are considered as soft subjects - old stereotypes being played out. We could work together to develop a joint strategy to ensure the development and growth of Alevel film and media studies.
- Jeremy: Alevels reformation process has been announced; the Govt wants to return to a 2 year A level; leaks in press e.g. *The Times* emphasis being placed on stronger and more important Alevels, and less stronger and less important Alevels. The Alevels Board will welcome becoming involved in with BAFTSS to advise it on the Alevels accreditation process and Michael Gove's new proposed curriculum changes.
- ALL - BAFTSS can and should help in the advocacy of the Alevels film and media studies subjects.
- Phil Powrie – How can University Depts be consulted?
- Jeremy – we need a sense of an evaluation of the benefits of Alevels from the University sector and BAFTSS can be actively involved with this.
- BW - Responses invited around from the table; seen this for over 20 years hostility towards Alevel film and media studies.
- Re widening BAFTSS membership beyond HE – cf. the constitution issues, but we should obviously broaden the membership to include FE and school teachers.
- Phil Powrie – what about progression pre-Alevels into film and media studies?
- BW – we need to take this on board and address this as part of BAFTSS initiative and to extend BAFTSS membership.
- RD/Jeremy – suggest a small working group from BAFTSS to work with WJEC/CBAC and colleagues there on this issue together. We can raise the issue at the first BAFTSS Conference in April 2013 in Lincoln and have a panel on this subject.

Action Point: RD, Paul McDonald and Pat Phillips to liaise and work together on this issue in the first instance.



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Pat and Jeremy were formally thanked for joining us, and then they leave. BAFTSS Agenda was then resumed in order of items listed.

1. **Approval of last interim EC Minutes.** Paul McDonald incorrect name spelling noted. Otherwise approved.

2. **AGM minutes to be confirmed at next AGM**

3a. JACS

(correction noted listed as JISC on agenda) research agenda: BAFTSS members are already doing research in the BAFTSS areas for work and we need to be statistically recognised on JACS for this. Do we have a BAFTSS colleague who will undertake this role? This role needs to be designated to a colleague or two. LN – reminded the meeting that film needs to be recognised on various league tables and the role of the colleague will be key in doing this.

3b. Advisory Board list of suggestions:

- RD: What is/will be the role of the Board? – political, need academic respectability; help us develop an international presence; and raise the profile and awareness of the Association. We need Donors (e.g. possibilities on a wish list might include names like Ridley Scott; Stephen Frears etc.), need to consider TV industry colleagues too.
- PW - how will this Board help us to network regionally and internationally and help raise our profile in academic, industry, and festival networks?

Action Point: BW – suggestion made that BW will get a list of names of possible Advisory Board members, up to 15, and that BW will write a carefully worded letter to senior industry and academics. All agreed and EC members to email BW with names.

3c. PG matters – Rachel Keene: funding has been an issue at Southampton and this led to the missed deadline for a joint BAFTSS PG event. Can we tie down a PG event in the next few weeks? LN – reminded the meeting that BAFTSS PG funding is allocated on a competitive basis.

Action Point: Rachel Keene to liaise with Rachel at Southampton and come with up some hard costs for a PG symposium and BAFTSS will then consider these.

3d. International Matters

- BW - Paul McDonald formally designated as international liaison colleague for BAFTSS after kindly volunteering himself for this.
- Beijing Film academy – following on from email discussions, how would we take this forward with Beijing and other similar offers (e.g. student and researcher exchanges)?
- After discussion all agreed that it was premature to create and maintain an initial extensive database of BAFTSS members, we need to use the e-list to contact the membership and the EC to facilitate this. **Action Point:** PM to consider this further.

Action Point: At renewal of membership a new field of information needs to be added to insert primary research interests of existing and new members. Stefano to undertake this.

3e. BAFTSS Annual Conference Plans

Annual conference plans, agreed in principle 19, 20 & 21 April 2013 at Lincoln. Joe Andrew from Keele and Anna Claydon from Leicester to be part of the sub-committee and take charge of the issue. We need to have covered at the conference: the A-levels issue; a strong pg presence, 1st book and essay prize winners to attend and make brief presentations, an AGM or Emergency GM, Dinner, Publishers, cpanels and papers, value-added workshops or master classes and not just formal



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conference panels from new media, creative industry and new media professionals to offer this; laying down markers about the fields – what is BAFTSS, past and futures; lifetime achievement award/Honorary Fellowship; pgs might think about new directions; ways to attract new BAFTSS members.

Action Point: Sub-cttee to form the cfp rubric and to circulate it to the EC for any edits and approval. Possible publication arising out of the conference – e.g. a journal special issue of a relevant journal. Laura Mulvey lifetime achievement BW to contact.

3g. BAFTSS & MeCCSa

3h. BAFTSS & BFI

Chris was liaising formally with MeCCSa and BFI.

Action Point: RD as the Secretary to now establish contact and notify both of new EC. A BFI member should be on our Advisory Board. BFI meetings in UK put up on BAFTSS website, BAFTSS EC and members encouraged to attend.

4. BAFTSS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

351 paid members as of 21 October 2012.

We need to draft a letter to all members along the lines of ‘we are the EC who have done x,y,z; given prizes etc, having an AGM etc. please join’, which needs to be sent to wider colleagues on the JISC e-mailing list. There are approx 600 people working in BAFTSS areas and we need to encourage them to join in December. Membership Secretary to be appointed.

Action Point: BW to undertake the letter.

5. TREASURERS REPORT (CONSIDERATION OF FEES)

LN – current balance appendix submitted via Dina’s report. Need to raise the membership fee, current agreement £20 full and £10 students/low paid colleagues.

We need to evaluate what services we are offering?

Action Point: Meet as an EC in January 2013 meeting to see how finances are going and then to take an amendment to raise the fees to the AGM/EGM at the April conference.

AMoor - Setting up a competition (e.g. best film review to be published in somewhere like Sight and Sound), charge a small fee for this to raise further funds.

6. CONSTITUTION

This needs to be amended in order to reflect discussions based around structure and EC membership. BW to add appropriate wording here. **Action Point:** To meet in January 2013 and at the next AGM to formally amend the Constitution ahead of the next election.

7. Assigning jobs to the EC members (Awards, Development, Publications, Research)

- Tim Bergfelder volunteered to continue to do the Awards
- Paul McDonald – International Liaison
- Alex Marlow-Mann – Membership Secretary
- Stefano Baschiera – Website Communications with RD
- Andrew Moor – Development
- Lucy Mazdon – Research with a small working group
- Beth Johnson – Publications

The logo for BAFTSS, consisting of the letters 'BAFTSS' in a bold, orange, sans-serif font, centered within a black rectangular background.

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- Rachel Keene (Portsmouth) and Victoria Kearley (Southampton) Co-opted Postgraduate members for now; a permanent person is needed and we need to formalise this at the AGM/EGM in April.

Recommendation: EC members to send Stefano content for the website – blogs, posts, notices etc. as we are content thin on the BAFTSS website

8. AOB

- List of BAFTSS directory members and staff research interests, dealt with above.
- RD – can EC members claim expenses? In principle PG EC members will be reimbursed. All expenses claims to be considered on a case by case basis as a fall back position. Salaried EC members to go to their home HEI for expenses first. Results of claims TBC by the Treasurer and Chair.

Time and date of next meeting: University of Birmingham, Alex Marlow-Mann to organise and confirm room and venue details for Monday 14 January 2013, 2-5pm.